

Additionally, the references mentioned refer to a Website hence a "publication date" is neither available nor relevant in this case. The Applicant hereby requests that the Information Disclosure Statement therefore be considered in its entirety as all relevant printed matter can be found in the file of the priority case on record with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Amendments In the Specifications:

Because of a typographical error please allow the additional following amendment to the version of the application which resulted after our response (dated 16 February, 2003) to the previous Office Action which was mailed to us at 27 January 2003):

In Page 6, Line 3, please replace "into a solid a buffer layer" with -- into a solid buffer layer --.

Remarks

35 U.S.C § 103 claim rejections

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3,4 under § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Gilding (4,049,506) in view of Evans (4,950,365).

The Examiner's rejections is respectfully traversed because of the following:

1. Applicant fully acknowledges Gilding teaching as set forth by the Examiner in page 3 of the OA, in providing an improved tip surface to a wire-bonding capillary.

Applicant would like to add, however that an implicit teaching as well as an over all impression which a skilled person who is familiar with the art of capillary bonding gets from Gilding is; that for reasons detailed below, tough metallic coatings e.g. nickel or gold, are needed and that soft coatings like that of polymers are not anticipated to be useful.